



June 2, 2016  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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P.O. BOX 85524  
San Diego, CA 92186-5524  
(619) 563-2700 • FAX (619) 563-2775/2705

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Joel San Juan – District 1  
Rebecca Hernandez, Member-at-Large (ADS) – District 2  
Jenifer Mendel, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair – District 2  
Deanne George – District 3  
Colin MacKinnon – District 3  
Ed Weiner – District 3  
Jerry Hall – District 4  
John Sturm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair – District 4  
Judith Yates – District 4  
Phil Deming, Chair – District 5  
Richard McGaffigan – District 5  
K.C. Strang – District 5  
Supervisor Dave Roberts – BOS

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Eyra Leeper – District 1  
Michael Matthews – District 2  
Julie Martin – District 3  
Tom Behr – District 4

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Alfredo Aguirre, Director, County Behavioral Health Services Division  
Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III, County Behavioral Health Services Division

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) meeting was called to order by Phil Deming, Chairperson, at 3:34 pm at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, California 92101, Room 302/303.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Members of the BHAB introduced themselves. Also in attendance were Danny Melgoza, Policy Advisor to Supervisor Greg Cox, District 1, and Susan Bower, Assistant Director of Integrated Services, Housing, Health and Human Services Agency.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – MAY 5, 2016**

ON MOTION of John Sturm, seconded by Jenifer Mendel, the BHAB approved the minutes of May 5 as written.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS OTHER THAN ACTION ITEMS**

- Jerry Hall, BHAB member, came before the BHAB to speak about 1) the county's need to fund current technology upgrades to address the lack of timely procurement and evaluation information available to stakeholders and 2) enhance funding for Neighborhood House Association's Project In-Reach so that more inmates know about it, thus reducing prison and jail population for the mentally ill. He distributed a handout which compared jail and prison recidivism rates between inmates and Project In-Reach participants within 6 months of their release.

- Nadine Hayes came down from Camarillo in Ventura County to speak about mental illness versus mental injury (specifically, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder) and incarceration. She gave a personal experience and brought sample ID cards to give to the BHAB that mentally injured homeless individuals can give to police officers to assist in finding resources for them. The cards contain contact information for local mental health providers, and the idea was started by the Brain Injury Center in Camarillo to work along with their police department to aid communication when brain injured individuals were arrested. It is her hope that a similar ID card program can be duplicated and put in place in San Diego County for use by the police academy when officers are trained on how to deal with mentally injured individuals.
- Donna Piranha shared her personal experiences with mental health issues. She is an anthropologist and activist with Occupy San Diego and Occupy Wall Street who has worked with the homeless and its causes for over three years. She is concerned that homeless individuals are regularly being dosed covertly with lithium and would like County Mental Health to look into the matter, especially since lithium toxicity can mimic mental (bipolar) illness, thus creating a vicious cycle of incorrect mental health diagnosis and erroneous medication prescribing of homeless individuals.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING – MHSA Annual Update Fiscal Year 2016-19 (Adrienne Collins Yancey)**

The County of San Diego is at the end of the 30-day public comment period for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update, during which time the county is required to hold a public hearing before the Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

Comments:

- Supervisor Dave Roberts and Jerry Hall asked about increased funding for Project In-Reach in order to reach a broader population. Alfredo Aguirre noted that the project is one that has been singled out for enhancement within the MHSA Annual Update. Specifically, \$420,646 has been set aside using Community Services and Support Funding dollars. Dr. Piedad Garcia also noted that the county currently has several transition programs for individuals in jail in partnership with the Public Defender's Office, the clergy, and the Sheriff's Department.
- Next steps: All of the input received from the community (both oral and written commentary) will be brought back next month to the BHAB detailing what MHSA staff was able to incorporate into the Annual Update and what additional changes were made since Adrienne Yancey's presentation to the BHAB last month. A draft Board Letter will also be presented for the BHAB's review and approval.

**VI. ACTION ITEM – BHS Procurement Fiscal Year 2016-17 Board Letter (Holly Salazar)**

Board of Supervisors authority will be sought on June 21, 2016, for the competitive solicitation of new contracts and amendment to existing contracts to continue implementing and enhancing the delivery of behavioral health services.

The following services are to be competitively procured:

Adult and Older Adults (AOA): Services for Homeless Persons with Serious Mental Illness or Substance Use in the East and South Regions, and Full Service Partnership with Assertive Community Treatment Step Down Model of Services Countywide.

The specifics of these contracts, including the services provided and the actions proposed, are included in the Board Letter in the packet.

This action supports the County's *Live Well San Diego* vision, by ensuring that vulnerable persons with mental illness and substance use disorders continue to have access to a comprehensive continuum of behavioral health services administered through regionally accessible behavioral health programs. Contracts included in this item reflect \$7.8 million in costs.

**It is, THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that the Board support the competitive solicitation of new contracts and services, and amending existing contracts to continue implementing and enhancing the delivery of behavioral health services in San Diego County.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ABOVE ACTION ITEM**

None

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by John Sturm, the BHAB voted to support the competitive solicitation of new contracts and services, and amending existing contracts to continue implementing and enhancing the delivery of behavioral health services in San Diego County.  
AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VII. ACTION ITEM – Project One for All Board Letter and Implementation Plan (Dr. Piedad Garcia, Todd Henderson)**

On February 2, 2016 (14), upon the recommendation of Chairman Roberts and Supervisor Cox, the Board of Supervisors adopted Project One for All – a commitment to provide intensive wraparound services to all individuals who are homeless with serious mental illness. On January 26, 2016 (6), the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a series of recommendations to immediately expand an array of behavioral health contracts to provide services to this population.

Implementation of Project One for All relies on a coordinated approach braiding treatment and housing. To facilitate implementation of this comprehensive strategy, the County announced a significant organizational change of moving the Department of Housing and Community Development into the Health and Human Services Agency, effective July 1. This series of actions demonstrates a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of those who are seriously mentally ill and are experiencing homelessness.

In the launching of Project One for All, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board within 120 days with the Project One for All Implementation Plan. Approval of today's recommendation will accept the Project One for All Implementation Plan.

**It is, THEREFORE, staff's recommendation that the Board support the recommendation to accept and approve the Project One for All Implementation Plan.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ABOVE ACTION ITEM**

None

**PRESENTATION:**

Dr. Piedad Garcia, County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services, and Todd Henderson, Director of County of San Diego Department of Housing and Community Development, presented a PowerPoint entitled: "Project One for All," that covered the following areas:

- Point in Time Count
- Collective Impact to Address Homelessness
- Project One for All
  - Outreach and Engagement
  - Treatment Services
  - Housing
  - Next Steps

## **DISCUSSION**

- Ed Weiner asked for a breakdown between city and county data in the point of time count.
  - Todd Henderson did not have the breakdown but can obtain that information.
- Jerry Hall wanted to know how long the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) process takes and when does it begin.
  - Todd Henderson explained that as soon as the client comes to HUD and is ready for the voucher, the process is streamlined with staffing, paperwork and eligibility determination. Housing/hotel/motel inspection takes about a week, and the longest part of the process—eligibility (verifying information given by the client, SSI, criminal background, etc.)—takes 2-3 weeks. If the applicant is unable to travel, staff travels to them.
  - Landlords can go online for more information and can express interest through various other channels, 211 being one of them.
- K.C. Strang asked how it is determined that an applicant is ready for independent living.
  - Dr. Piedad Garcia explained that various criteria are taken under consideration such as the applicant's clinical status (is their clinical presentation stable and are they taking their medications?), and what kind of support they need. Another area taken into consideration is whether or not the applicant has the ability to fend for him/herself (can he/she cook, maintain a clean apartment, abide by the rules of the apartment, etc.) In addition, a full service partnership works with the individual, and the Housing First model ensures ongoing care for the applicant.
- Rebecca Hernandez asked for clarification on whether or not these full service partnerships are addressing serious drug use.
  - Dr. Piedad Garcia explained that the full service partnerships utilize an assertive community treatment model of service that is an evidence-based practice which wraps services around clients for whatever he/she needs.
- Jenifer Mendel asked about housing for the high population of homeless youth in this county.
  - Dr. Piedad Garcia acknowledged that individuals with minors who access mental health care through the clinics and are homeless are not included in the Point in Time Count. Thus, one of the ways the county is addressing this segment of homeless individuals is through a new contract called "Home Finder" that is currently going through the procurement process. This contract will serve those clients who are seeking outpatient services and are homeless. The goal is to cross-match them with the county's management information system to find out who these "other homeless" are and which programs can best serve them. The hope is that this new system can aid in capturing the homeless youth population as well.
- John Sturm asked about client and consumer education and if there is a structured educational component in place to teach life skills (laundry, scheduling, etc.). John also voiced his concern that where the housing is located (safe environment) is a big factor in preventing relapses into addiction.
  - Dr. Piedad Garcia stated that there are several county contractors working with clients to address all of those issues and gave a few examples. She suggested that perhaps some of these contractors can give a presentation to the BHAB at a future meeting.

ON MOTION of Jerry Hall, seconded by Colin MacKinnon, the BHAB voted to accept the Project One for All Implementation Plan after discussion, as noted above.

AYES: 12   NAYS: 0   ABSTENTIONS: 0

## **VIII. PRESENTATION – Directing Change Student Videos (Jane Sczersputowski, Shanti Bond)**

Jana Sczersputowski, Project Director, and Shanti Bond, Project Manager, for Directing Change, were invited before the BHAB to talk about the program. The Directing Change program is part of Each Mind Matters, one of several statewide efforts to prevent suicide, reduce stigma and discrimination related to mental illness, and to promote the mental health and wellness of students. These initiatives are funded by counties through the Mental Health Services Act and administered by the California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA). The program opens the door to introduce prevention programs in schools and encourages young people to learn about the topics of suicide prevention and mental health in a non-



textbook kind of way through a film contest. Learning criteria are embedded into the film submission criteria, i.e., knowing about mental health symptoms, knowing about the warning signs for suicide, appropriate help seeking, how to offer support, etc. This critical educational component is part of the criteria that young people follow when creating films that are designed to have lasting impact.

This year, film submissions were solicited not only from California high schools, but also from youth and young adults in partnership with a college or university or just a community-based organization. Samples of local 60-second film submissions in three categories, "Suicide Prevention," "Mental Health Matters," and "Through the Lens of Culture," were shown to the BHAB. Several of the students with winning films were in attendance, and two of them, Avery Spicker and Chelsea Barrows from Torrey Pines High School Peer Assistant Listeners, spoke about their experience participating in the program and helping to spread awareness on this topic among their peers. A DVD containing the films of all regional winners and statewide finalists was distributed to all in attendance. Free download of all the films and more information can be found at the Directing Change website: <http://www.directingchange.org>.

**IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Alfredo Aguirre, Behavioral Health Services Director**

- Update on Suicide Prevention Workgroup Feasibility Report
  - Executive Summary and detailed analyses of all ten recommendations were included in BHAB packets. Suggested edits will be incorporated by next BHAB.
- Whole Person Care Initiative
  - The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) received approval for a large 1115 Medi-Cal Waiver that has several components. Besides the Drug-Medical Waiver component, another component is the establishment of Whole Person Care Pilot projects. The goal of these projects is to develop infrastructure and supports for individuals who are "high utilizers"—those who frequently use hospitals, emergency departments, jails, etc.—often with poor outcomes.
  - DHCS released the application on May 16, with proposals due July 1. San Diego will be submitting a proposal to provide care coordination and system navigation, along with tenancy support (such as helping people become housing ready, education on how to be a good tenant, etc.) The currently planned target population are individuals who are high utilizers (as defined by the Medi-Cal managed care plans), and are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and who have any of the following conditions:
    - Serious Mental Illness
    - Substance Use Disorder
    - Chronic Health Condition (excluding cancer, acute renal failure, cirrhosis)
  - While the amount available to the county is variable, up to \$90 million/year, counties must provide a 1:1 local match of general funds that are not matched to Medi-Cal. In addition, the matching funds must directly tie to the interventions proposed. As a result, the county is still identifying the amount we will apply for based on the availability of eligible local match. At this point it may be approximately in the \$5 million range (including both federal and local funds).
  - The county will be notified of funding in the fall and, if awarded, will return to BHAB with a presentation regarding the services provided through this opportunity.
- Since 2006 the county's behavioral health children's system of care has provided family liaison services that support the partnering of parents and youth with our providers to ensure that their voice is heard and to understand the system of care. Recently, Behavioral Health Services discontinued the contract with Family Youth Roundtable, and effective June 1, BHS is amending the contract with NAMI San Diego to continue to perform these services.
- The Behavioral Health Person of the Year and the Program of the Year have been announced and will be honored at the Behavioral Health Recognition Dinner on June 10. Program of the Year was awarded to our SSI Advocacy Program that works out of the Legal Aid Society, and the Person of the Year is Deborah Malcarne.

**X. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Phil Deming, Behavioral Health Services Advisory Board Chair**

- Confirmed date of the BHAB Fall Retreat
  - Saturday, October 8, at the BHS Administrative Office in Mission Valley, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.
- Fall Retreat Planning in July
  - Part of the July BHAB meeting will be spent looking at potential changes to the Bylaws—enhancements, additions, deletions, changes—that would help the BHAB be more effective as a board on a long-term basis. In preparation, Traci Finch will send an email with the link to the current Bylaws.
- The BHAB will be dark in August but will meet for the remaining months of the year, including December.
- Testimony to the Little Hoover Commission
  - Phil Deming took a trip to Sacramento last week to testify at the Little Hoover Commission's hearing. The Commission was established following a federal commission that evaluates efficiency, accountability, finances on a statewide basis. The Little Hoover Commission does this on a national basis, and the issue in question at this point is taking a look at maintaining local administration and control, review, oversight of funding for prevention programs versus it going to the state. Phil's testimony was that he feels that would not be an optimum move because it would add layers of bureaucracy and reduce the ability for our county and all counties to timely, effectively and efficiently address issues as we discern them in our community. The hearing is ongoing, and Phil does not know what the result of his testimony will be.
- Health Services Advisory Board Retreat
  - Phil Deming will attend this weekend and will have a report next month's BHAB meeting.
- Update on Special Election
  - The recent resignation of one of the BHAB members resulted in the loss of one of the Executive Committee positions also held by that member. The Executive Committee has been in the process of searching for a replacement for the Member-at-Large position, and Judith Yates has volunteered to be considered. Since the Bylaws require a vote, this will take place at the July BHAB meeting. In the meantime, if other BHAB members are interested in the position, please let Traci Finch or Phil Deming know.

**XI. ADVOCATE REPORTING**

- Child and Youth Advocate Update (Rebecca Hernandez)
  - Handout distributed to BHAB members.

**XII. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Edward Weiner announced the Juvenile Justice Commission Awards Luncheon taking place Friday, July 15, at the Miramar Naval Air Station. Ed will send an email to Traci Finch with more details to forward to the BHAB.

**XIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of Jenifer Mendel, seconded by Rebecca Hernandez, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.  
AYES: All

**Brown Act Procedure:** *As required by California Government Code 54950 et seq. (Ralph M. Brown Act), a copy of the packet of information that was mailed to Behavioral Health Advisory Board members at the point of posting of this agenda has been placed at the reception desk at 3255 Camino Del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108, for public inspection, and is available at the site of the meeting for public inspection. Members of the public wanting their own copy of the advance materials may request them under Government Code 6250 et seq. (Public Records Act) and receive them on payment of copying charges of \$0.20/page, and actual mailing charges, if mailing of the material is requested. If you are planning to attend and need special accommodations, you must call Jackson Alexander at (858) 505-6521, at least three days in advance of the meeting.*

Respectfully submitted,



Allison V. Williams, Secretary to the Director  
Behavioral Health Services

Reviewed by,



Traci Finch, Administrative Analyst III  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board Support Staff

Approved by,



Phillip R. Deming, Chairperson  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board

**For BHAB documents, agenda, minutes and Director's Reports, please read or download from the Network of Care Behavioral Health Advisory Board at:**  
**<http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/content.aspx?id=257>**